

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 24, 28, 30, and 31, without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein, and add new Claims 32-34, as follows.

1-28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently Amended) In a method of manufacturing an optical element by forming, on a first ~~periodic structure~~ diffraction grating, a second ~~periodic structure~~ diffraction grating on the basis of molding, said method comprising:

performing alignment of a mold to be used for the molding of the second ~~periodic structure~~ diffraction grating, by ~~use of an alignment mark provided on a substrate on which the first periodic structure is formed~~ engaging a recess alignment mark provided on the mold for the second diffraction grating with a protrusion alignment mark provided on a substrate on which the first diffraction grating is formed.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Canceled)

32. (New) In a method of manufacturing an optical element by forming, on a first diffraction grating, a second diffraction grating on the basis of molding, said method comprising:

performing alignment of mold to be used for the molding of the second diffraction grating, by engaging a protrusion alignment mark provided on the mold for the second diffraction grating with a recess alignment mark provided on a substrate on which the first diffraction grating is formed.

33. (New) A method according to Claim 29, wherein the first diffraction grating and the protrusion alignment mark are formed on the substrate on the basis of molding.

34. (New) A method according to Claim 32, wherein the first diffraction grating and the recess alignment mark are formed on the substrate on the basis of molding.